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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Showered with style

Wet weather can't dampen the fashion. Page 4

BREWING UP A 'YES' VOTE

Dageraad Brewing owner Ben Coli wants people to vote "Yes" in the transit plebiscite so businesses like his don't have to deal with even more congestion on the roads. To prove his point, Coli transported two kegs from his Burnaby brewery to a café on Commercial Drive via SkyTrain Thursday morning — and no, he didn't try to convince people to vote "Yes" by giving out free beer. Story, page 6. COURTESY MICHAEL J.P. HALL.

Watchdog snarling over review

Politics. Auditor general of local government questions appointment of former deputy minister

Growing pains at British Columbia's two-year-old auditor general of local government office became more public Thursday amid allegations of political interference and legal challenges.

The municipal government watchdog has been under fire for weeks since the Opposition New Democrats leaked a workplace review outlining an inefficient and unhappy workplace.

The office was created in 2013 to ensure municipalities use tax dollars wisely but has only produced three audits. NDP local government critic Selina Robinson said the office was among Premier Christy Clark's election promises, but its implementation has been flawed.

"It's like no one has been monitoring this," she said. "No one has been paying attention. It's a gong show over there."

Local government auditor general Basia Ruta said her office, the first of its kind in Canada, had challenges getting off the ground, but the release of the Delta and Rossland reviews has it well-prepared to release further audits.

Ruta reacted strongly to the appointment of former deputy minister Chris Trumpy to conduct an independent review of her office.

"I'm all for reviews," said Ruta. "I just want to make sure that it's done in a way that it's legit and I can tell others when I go and audit them and say, 'Are you within the law? I'm within the law.'"

In an interview, Ruta said she has no concerns with Trumpy as a person, but his previous work as a deputy minister and current work with former Liberal politicians may give rise to perceptions of bias.

"Given Mr. Trumpy's background and involvement with public and government relations, we are of the view that the appearance of objectivity required to conduct a proper evaluation of the office is undermined," said a letter from Ruta's lawyers to the Audit Council.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I'm all for reviews; I just want to make sure that it's done in a way that it's legit."

Basia Ruta, local government auditor general

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NEWS

City council

Vancouver to extend taxi licence freeze

Vancouver intends to extend the moratorium on issuing new taxi licences for an extra seven months in a move that will further delay Uber from getting legal permission to operate in the city.

City council voted in October to place a six-month moratorium on issuing new taxi licences to consult with stakeholders on the future of the industry, but a report going to council next week recommends extending the freeze until Oct. 31, 2015.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Hollywood

Ryan Reynolds movie to close Georgia viaduct

Go ahead and blame superstar Ryan Reynolds for traffic snarls on the Georgia viaduct in April.

The city is closing the route into downtown on at least 11 days for filming of the Vancouver-born actor's movie Deadpool.

"This collaboration with 20th Century Fox is more exciting news for our growing economy and another important way of showing that Vancouver is open for business for major motion pictures," Mayor Gregor Robertson said in a statement.

The production will spend more than $37.5 million and hire more than 1,100 people, according to the city. More than 80 per cent of B.C. film and television companies are based in Metro Vancouver.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

A memorial is growing outside the West Hotel at 488 Carrall St. following the deaths of two men over the weekend. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Double homicide spurs changes at Vancouver's West Hotel

Stabbing. Residents of the building had complained about lax security and increasingly unsafe conditions

MATT KIELTYKA
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Residents and management say conditions at a Downtown Eastside hotel are starting to improve after a double homicide at the building.

Two men, ages 24 and 37, died Saturday night after a double stabbing at the West Hotel, 488 Carrall St., that police continue to investigate.

Residents of the building complained that lax security and poor management over the past several months had created increasingly unsafe conditions at the building.

The homicides, and subsequent meetings with city and police officials, have spurred a slew of changes.

Community Builders Groups' Julie Roberts said management has hired a security guard during evening shifts, 24-7 front-desk staffing has increased and the guard plate and lock on the front door have been replaced.

"We are committed to putting extra measures in place to ensure the safety and security of tenants," Roberts said on Thursday.

Residents had complained that staff weren't doing enough to make sure unwanted guests were denied entry to the building.

Resident Dan Zimmerman said drug dealers and users had set up shop inside, leading to many violent incidents.

Roberts, though, claims the known "criminal element" entering the building have been invited guests of some residents and that steps are being taken to address those issues.

Two staff were assaulted, but unharmed, when attempting to check the IDs of visitors on Wednesday, she added.

Neither of the two men killed on Saturday were residents of the building, though Vancouver police have yet to publicly release their identities.

A makeshift memorial for the victims continues to grow outside the hotel.

Zimmerman confirmed staffing at the building has increased and that the front door has been secured since the homicides.

"It's finally been quiet. They finally did what we've told them to do for all these months," he said. "It's sad it had to take this to do it."

He said residents hope the improvements continue and aren't just part of a short-term response to the homicides.

Roberts said discussions with Vancouver police and the City of Vancouver (which noted almost 40 violations during a recent inspection of the building) over conditions at the West are ongoing.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

VANCOUVER FASHION WEEK

Coming up this weekend

Designer floating up and away

Since winning Project Runway two years ago, Michelle Lesniak says her life has felt like a hot-air balloon ride.

It's a familiar feeling for the Portland, Oregon-based designer, who said she fell in love with hot-air balloons as a young girl.

"My father used to race them," she told Metro. "They seem so dangerous yet also lively."

When it came time to design her latest collection, which she will present at Vancouver Fashion Week on Saturday, Lesniak said it only made sense that her post-reality-TV adventure would serve as inspiration.

"There's so much expanding in my life that I feel super giddy," she said. "But at the same time, I still feel like I'm falling."

The collection, titled Falling Upwards, is based on the "romance of hot-air ballooning," she said. Drawing from a palette of mustard yellow, cantaloupe, gold, ochre and mint green, the line consists mostly of swimsuits and silk dresses with some rainwear elements included. Each look embodies "light airiness" that Lesniak said she hopes projects a sense of "feeling out of control."

"It's by far the most whimsical collection that I've done," she said. "When these ladies are walking, the silk is just floating away from their bodies, so you feel like you're watching a hot-air balloon."

Portland, Oregon-based designer Michelle Lesniak is making her Vancouver Fashion Week debut on Saturday. CONTRIBUTED

An artist at heart, Lesniak said she takes control of every aspect of runway shows, from working with a musician to compose the soundtrack for each collection to helping develop the hair and makeup looks for each model.

Lesniak also creates her own prints for the fabrics she uses.

"My design aesthetic is very mood based. So when you are doing a whole series of pieces, you have to have this cohesion." THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Michelle Lesniak hits the runway at 5:15 p.m. Saturday.

Last night's show: Grunge, sequins & minimalism

Wet weather may have pounded the Vancouver Fashion Week tent on Thursday but it did nothing to dampen the mood.

In fact, it seemed a perfect fit for emerging Italian designer Diego Venturino, centre, who opened the day with his brand Artees Wear, a collection of art-inspired menswear and womenswear that channeled '90s grunge.

Taking a cue from rainy Seattle, circa 1992, the line featured variations of graphic T-shirts, sweaters and bomber jackets for men over black, cropped trousers with a zipper detail, combat boots and wool tuques. For women, there was a series of leather-trimmed T-shirt dresses with asymmetrical hemlines and black lipstick.

Sticking to mostly black, Venturino's neutral palette served as a raw canvas for each look's focal point: prints of artworks and images of sculptures.

Next up was Rosey Couture, left, which featured a collection of fun and feminine evening-wear for women. From revealing satin gowns to sheer separates and sequined jumpsuits, nothing seemed to be too outrageous for this daring designer.

A clear highlight of the evening was Vancouver designer Pouneh Askarian's superb collection of minimalistic coats and dresses, right.

Using mostly black, navy and ivory, Askarian incorporated pops of deep rouge, geometric stripes and damask prints to add visual interest. She contrasted structured cuts with billowing silhouettes that combined to create ultra-feminine looks that were both stunning and wearable.

Just when the crowd thought Askarian had stolen the show, however, celebrity chef Vikram Vij made an appearance on the catwalk, strutting his stuff during high-end South Asian bridal boutique Sunny's Bridal's show.

Perhaps it's time for Vij to leave the Dragons' Den for a future in fashion? THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Street style

Name: Helen Proskow

Age: 20

Occupation: model, makeup artist, photographer

What she's wearing
"My hair colour is Ion.... The glasses are Clearly Contacts. The pearls, fake fur, dress and crinoline is from Value Village. The shoes are Shoe Biz in Penticton. The brand is Shangri-La, and I got them on sale. And the tights are Topshop."

Her inspiration
"Elegance and beauty.... I'm really influenced by Lady Gaga, Madonna and Beyoncé."

Her style motto
"Slay the day." THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

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BCAA stays mum on new car-sharing service

BCAA has launched a new car-sharing service that aims to attract drivers who want vehicles with a little more space. Called Evo, the fleet features 250 Toyota Prius Hybrids with seating for five and Thule bike and ski racks. It works almost exactly like car2go with one-way trips, pricing per minute and free parking in residential permit-only areas. Vancouverites may have already spotted the cars around town, but BCAA is remaining mum on the details until the official launch party on Tuesday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Brewery delivers kegs via SkyTrain

Burnaby. Beer maker lobbying for 'Yes' vote

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Beer maker Ben Coli is brewing up ideas to convince people to vote "Yes" in the transit plebiscite.

In the year since Coli opened Dageraad Brewing in Burnaby, he's noticed traffic is getting worse as he delivers beer across the Lower Mainland.

"It's actually getting noticeably harder to deliver our beer," Coli said. "We're going in all directions and experiencing traffic over town."

For Coli, that means extra costs for gas and wages for the two delivery guys, along with delays for customers waiting on orders.

He believes a "Yes" vote — this would mean a 0.5 per cent sales-tax increase in the Lower Mainland to pay for massive transit improvements including rapid transit in Surrey and Vancouver — would help ease congestion and make it easier for small businesses to keep costs down.

In order to convince naysayers to join his side, Coli decided to use the SkyTrain to transport two kegs from the brewery near Production Way-University Station to a café near Commercial-Broadway Station.

"The SkyTrain is the best way to get across the city, especially in rush hour," Coli said. He got on at about 8:45 a.m. so he didn't get in anyone's way in the middle of rush hour.

Most people simply wanted to talk about his beer (except for one man who was afraid Coli was carrying propane tanks), but Coli hopes the stunt will make people who don't like TransLink think twice about voting "No."

"I think a lot of people have had a bit of a knee-jerk reaction just out of anger at TransLink," he said. "I don't think the answer is not to invest in transit because you're mad."

Follow Emily Jackson on Twitter @theemilyjackson

Quoted

"The SkyTrain is the best way to get across the city, especially in rush hour."

Ben Coli, owner of Dageraad Brewing in Burnaby

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NEW**DRONE**WORLD **Metro looks at how drone technology is changing the skies in Canada** / Wednesday— Droning becomes big business / Thursday— Officers aren't using drones to spy... yet / Friday— You can make friends with #droneselfies

Read it all at metronews.ca

They're in the zone, flying drones

Recreation. Cheaper costs and increased acceptance have led to a surge in hobby droning

IRA LAMCJA
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Alexander Knight readies his drone by turning a switch on his remote control. The propellers make a loud humming noise as the drone takes off. He flies it higher and higher until it's a small black dot against a blue sky.

"You just need to be able to see it," he says, pointing at the horizon.

Knight, a self-styled citizen journalist, drives around Toronto documenting what he might deem as environmental hazards. He then blogs his experiences at alexanderknight.ca. It's a hobby for him. He makes no income off it.

Today, he's observing the cleanup of what he says is contamination from a rezoned industrial plant — and is happy to find, during the 15-minute flight, that the cleanup is finished.

With drones coming in at cheaper prices, it's now easier than ever to acquire and fly one. On Amazon, a Phantom DJI quadcopter with a GoPro camera costs around $1,000, and the Parrot AR drones start at around $500 and can go up to $900. On the lower end, Hubsan models cost around $100 to $200, though their camera capabilities are more limited.

Drone enthusiast Alexander Knight points to an image on a screen while his drone (not pictured) flies over a field in Toronto. IRA LAMCJA/METRO

The price, along with increasing cultural acceptance, has led to a new pastime of hobby droning. Aerial photography and videography are popular choices, as Twitter and Instagram will attest. #Droneselfies is devoted to aerial images of people taken from up above. Even Martha Stewart is a fan.

The trend has left Transport Canada scrambling to rein in hobbyists who stray too far. The most pressing concern for the agency has been daredevil flyers operating too close to airports, which can interfere with commercial airline planes. Transport Canada's new rules limit this, as hobbyists can no longer fly closer than nine kilometres from any airport, heliport or aerodrome.

Knight says he hasn't had issues with Transport Canada but he worries that may change as regulations try to keep up with the advancing technology.

Patrick Dinnen however has had to rein in his photographic pursuits. The "creative technologist" based in Toronto had been experimenting with lightwriting — the photographing of trails of light through long exposure settings — when he bought a Phantom DJI drone.

One night he and two friends, Brent Marshall and Dré Labre, attached custom LED lights to the drone and flew it over various Toronto parks, turning on the camera and capturing its flight path, exposing trails of ethereal light and colour. They dubbed the paintings Weird Illuminated Sky Paintings (WISPs).

"What we did with WISP is not really open to us anymore," Dinnen says, as Transport Canada no longer allows nighttime flying for hobbyists.

But for some enthusiasts, the appeal is the drone itself, as many have taken to making their own.

Knight orders the parts for his drones online through websites such as eBay. And there are resources among the hobbyist community to help those who need it.

DYIdrones.com, a U.S.-based website devoted to connecting drone fans with peers, functions as a social network for hobbyists and amateur enthusiasts.

The site's goal is to make drone development easier and cheaper for everyone while educating people on the technology. Discussions on the site can feature anything from where to buy certain parts to how to assemble a drone.

The cost of making a drone is usually lower than buying an off-the-shelf product, and assembly doesn't require advanced knowledge of mechanics or robotics.

Some Canadian retailers have popped up and begun offering drone parts for hobbyists. Canada Drones, founded four years ago by Dany Thivierge in Mississauga, Ont., started out with the online community at DIYdrones.com. Thivierge realized there was a real need to supply parts to his "fellow geeks." Today, Thivierge counts almost 4,000 customers.

Weird Illuminated Sky Paintings (WISPs) were created with drones and LEDs. CONTRIBUTED

"The growth is what surprised me the most," he says, adding that his sales are well over the million-dollar goal that many businesspeople have when first starting out.

Thivierge is optimistic for future sales in the summer, hinting at some "exciting products" on the way.

"People keep surprising me with never-before-imagined applications for this technology," he says.

In pictures: Metro's Ira Lamcja tests a Parrot drone

1 Remote. Works on most devices

Flying the Parrot AR drone is serious business. I used an iPad most of the time as a remote control but you can also use an iPhone as well as an Android phone or tablet.

2 Camera. Decent, by 2000s standards

The image quality on the camera attached to this drone is surprisingly good. A great deal of detail is captured, and although there is pixelation when the images are enlarged, the photos are still clear, resembling cellphone images from the early 2000s.

3 Handling. Beware of tight spaces

With time, practice and many crash scenes, piloting becomes easier and more instinctive. The Parrot's Styrofoam protection makes it ideal for flying indoors, but beware of flying in small or tight spaces. While the flip function is available, allowing the drone to somersault in the air, I don't recommend it indoors. I tried it once and took out the light in my living room. The Parrot survived.

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PM209	2015 MINI Cooper	Volcanic Orange	3,019	$28,795	$28,295
PM217	2015 MINI Cooper	White Silver	3,059	$29,135	$28,635
PM185	2015 MINI Cooper	Blazing Red	3,029	$29,385	$28,885
PM254	2015 MINI Cooper	Moon Walk Grey	3,062	$30,035	$29,535
OM247	2014 MINI Cooper Convertible	White Silver	3,090	$32,826	$31,826

MINI COUNTRYMAN

STOCK #	DEMO MODEL	COLOUR	MILEAGE (KM)†	MSRP*	SALE PRICE*
PM157	2014 MINI Countryman S	Blazing Red	4,630	$37,090	$33,090
PM155	2014 MINI Countryman S	Blazing Red	3,017	$39,680	$37,180
PM249	2015 MINI Countryman S	Midnight Grey	3,013	$38,795	$38,295
PM200	2015 MINI Countryman S	Jungle Green	3,700	$38,795	$38,295

MINI PACEMAN

STOCK #	DEMO MODEL	COLOUR	MILEAGE (KM)†	MSRP*	SALE PRICE*
OM254	2014 MINI Paceman	Light White	11,030	$36,485	$31,985
PM107	2014 MINI Paceman S	Light White	12,183	$38,540	$34,040
OM252	2014 MINI Paceman S	Chili Red	7,772	$45,760	$41,260
OM255	2014 MINI Paceman JCW	Chili Red	8,298	$51,955	$45,862

MINI NEXT PRE-OWNED

STOCK #	YEAR & MODEL	COLOUR	MILEAGE (KM)†	PRICE*	SALE PRICE*
PMU144	2012 MINI Cooper Knightsbridge	Chili Red	72,811	$18,693	$18,193
OMU019	2012 MINI Cooper Knightsbridge	Pepper White	45,729	$19,690	$19,190
OMU018	2012 MINI Cooper Knightsbridge	Pepper White	49,272	$19,690	$19,190
OMU002	2012 MINI Cooper Knightsbridge	Chili Red	37,000	$19,693	$19,193
PM126A	2012 MINI Cooper Knightsbridge	Pepper White	60,109	$19,400	$19,193
OMU003	2012 MINI Cooper Knightsbridge	Pepper White	60,405	$19,400	$19,193
OMU012	2012 MINI Cooper Knightsbridge	Chili Red	25,744	$20,090	$19,590
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Brian Sinclair inquiry

Care changes to take time: Review

Many recommendations from an inquest into an aboriginal man's death following a 34-hour wait in a Winnipeg emergency room will take years to implement. That's the conclusion of a team sifting through the 63 suggestions from the Brian Sinclair inquest. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Florida

Department of health withdraws orders against spa

The Florida Department of Health has withdrawn cease-and-desist orders against the directors of a health spa where two Ontario aboriginal girls received treatment.

The department sent cease-and-desist letters in February to co-directors of the Hippocrates Health Institute, Brian Clement and his wife Anna Maria Clement, saying it had "probable cause" to believe they were practising medicine without a license.

A department spokesman says the orders were withdrawn due to "lack of evidence."

In a statement, Clement says the decision is proof that he and his wife are licensed nutritionists who "have not and do not practice medicine." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kamloops, B.C.

Man's request to reunite with pot plants denied

A provincial court judge has denied a Kamloops, B.C., man's application to be reunited with 10 medicinal pot plants seized by the RCMP last year. The pot plants were discovered during a disturbance complaint. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories seek support for ISIL mission

Politics. Federal Conservatives plan to ask opposition parties to support extension

In a challenge to the opposition, Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson said Thursday the government wants all-party backing of a motion to extend the military mission against extremists in Iraq and Syria.

Nicholson made the call for unity in a speech to several dozen Ottawa-based foreign diplomats who were invited to Foreign Affairs headquarters. He emphasized the threat that the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) directly poses to Canada and its allies.

The speech was Nicholson's first in his new portfolio and came a day after Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced he will ask Parliament next week to expand the military mission.

Nicholson said he was proud of the decision to extend the mission and of "the moral clarity" Harper possesses.

"I can also tell you that he will ask all parties to come together as Canadians," Nicholson said.

NDP foreign affairs critic Paul Dewar said his party wants to support civilians at risk from ISIL's advances but he accused the government of not being transparent about what the military mission entails.

"There is so little definition as to what our role is there, our strategy is," said Dewar.

Nicholson said Canada must expand the mission because ISIL poses a continuing threat that will grow if left unchecked. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"They have to explain how it is that Canada has ended up on the front lines of this war."

Paul Dewar, NDP foreign affairs critic

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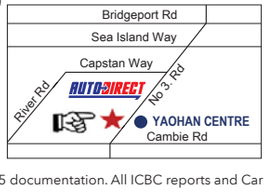

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Snowfall strands vehicles

A motorist attempts to move his car in Halifax on Wednesday. After receiving about 90 centimetres of snow this week, Halifax Stanfield International Airport says it is providing shovels for those who left their cars in the long-term parking lot because, quite frankly, a lot of them are buried in snow. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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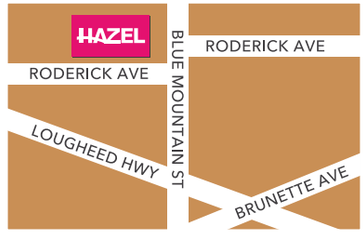

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Obesity rates rise despite laws: Study

Health. L.A. hoped to improve diets by restricting the opening of some restaurants

A much-hailed law that restricted the opening of new standalone fast-food restaurants in one of the poorest sections of Los Angeles did not curb obesity or improve diets, a new study found.

City lawmakers passed the zoning ordinance in 2008 that limited the opening or expansion of fast-food outlets in a 32-square-mile area south of Interstate 10 that struggles with high obesity rates and other health problems.

The law, believed to be the first effort of its kind by a major city to improve public health, did not ban new eateries in strip malls.

The research by the Rand Corp. think-tank found that obesity rates in South Los Angeles continued to rise after passage of the law.

Health experts said a single intervention would not reverse the obesity problem. People also have to exercise and make lifestyle changes, they said.

Before the fast-food ordinance, 63 per cent of South Los Angeles residents reported being overweight or obese. Three years after the ordinance went into effect, 75 per cent of South Los Angeles residents reported being overweight or obese.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Los Angeles ordinance designed to curb obesity in low-income areas by restricting the opening of new fast-food restaurants has failed to reduce obesity, according to a new study. DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Only 20,868 kms, limited package, split folding rear seats, air conditioning, tilt and telescoping steering wheel, power moonroof, navigation system, front dual zone A/C, automatic temperature control, CD/AM/FM/XM/MP3/ Bluetooth, heated front seats, leather interior.

$167 BIWEEKLY @ 96 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $25,398

S15422B

2013 HONDA FIT SPORT

Only 12,178 kms, FWD, split folding rear seats, tenneau cover included, tilt and telescoping steering wheel, A/C, Bluetooth HandsFree Link, CD/AM/FM/MP3, rear window wiper and defroster, fog lights, 16" alloy wheels, ABS brakes, power steering, brake assist, traction control.

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S15220A

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S13455C

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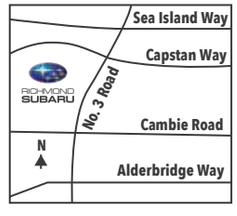

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Middle East. Netanyahu tones down the rhetoric after diplomatic backlash

Days after winning re-election, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday backtracked from hardline statements against the establishment of a Palestinian state in the face of a diplomatic backlash.

In the closing days of his campaign, Netanyahu said there could be no Palestinian state while regional violence and chaos persist — conditions that could rule out progress on the issue for many years. The comments, aimed at appealing to his nationalist voter base, angered the Obama administration, which views a two-state solution as a top foreign policy priority.

Netanyahu said in a TV interview Thursday that he remains committed to Palestinian statehood — if conditions in the region improve — and to the two-state vision first spelled out in a landmark 2009 speech at Israel's Bar Ilan University.

"I haven't changed my policy," he said in a full interview with MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports, excerpts of which were to be shown on NBC's Nightly News later on. "I never retracted my speech."

At the time, he said he would agree to a demilitarized Palestinian state that recognizes Israel as a Jewish state. The Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has recognized Israel as a state but refuses to recognize its Jewish character, and last year formed a unity government backed by the Hamas militant group, which is sworn to Israel's destruction.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Split remains

The outcome of the Israeli election will only deepen polarization, experts say.

- Benjamin Netanyahu's anti-Arab campaign rhetoric and his rejection of a Palestinian state, they say, will further splinter American Jews into hard left and right camps, and intensify conflicts over what it means to be loyal to the Jewish state.

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WARRANTY | 60 days
SKU | OMN-L1950
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22" | 5ms | 1680x1050
WARRANTY | 60 days
SKU | OMN-LA2205WG
~~$109.99~~ **$89.99**

NEC 22" LCD
22" | 5ms | 1680x1050
WARRANTY | 60 days
SKU | OMN-EA221WM
~~$109.99~~ **$99.99**

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CPU | ... Core i3-2120 3.3GHz
RAM | ..... 8 GB DDR3
HDD | ..... 500 GB
GPU | .... nVidia GTS 450 1GB
PSU | ..... 600W (minimum)
OS | .. Windows 7 HP (MAR)
WAR | ..... 6 months
SKU | ODT-LEN-M71E-DESKHOM
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All offers valid while supplies last. Offers do not apply to previous orders / invoices / services. May not be combined with any other offers. Pricing and availability subject to change without notice. Advertised battery life is mfg's estimated maximum. MAR - Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher

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RAID | 1 / JBOD
WARRANTY | 3 years
SKU | 70A69001NA
~~$399.99~~ **$179.99**

StorCenter ix4 8TB NAS
BAYS | 4 | HDD | 4x2 TB
RAID | 0/1/5/10/JBOD | WRTY | 3 yr
SKU | 70B89001NA
~~$849.99~~ **$399.99**

CRTC requires $25 'skinny basic' TV

Cable and satellite. Regulator also orders service providers to offer pick-and-pay or small bundle packages

Cable and satellite service providers will soon have to offer consumers an "entry-level" television service, at a cost of no more than $25 a month.

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission released the new requirements on Thursday, following its lengthy Let's Talk TV hearings last fall.

The new, trimmed-down basic packages must include local channels in each service area, as well as channels currently on the CRTC's mandatory distribution list such as public interest, educational and legislature channels where they're available.

U.S.-based channels that are currently free over the air in most major Canadian markets near the border — so-called 4-plus-1 channels — will also be included.

It's the first time television service pricing has been regulated in Canada since 1999 and makes it the only jurisdiction in the industrialized world to require that TV distribution companies offer a basic selection of channels.

The national broadcast regulator says the requirement to offer a trimmed-down basic package will take effect by March 2016.

The CRTC says TV viewers will then be able to supplement the so-called "skinny basic" package with either individual channels available through a pick-and-pay model, or what it calls small, "reasonably priced" bundled channel packages.

But service providers will have until the end of next year to offer both a la carte channels and theme packages.

Customers who are happy with their current TV offerings won't have to switch.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 78.58¢ (-0.97¢)

TSX 14,873.93 (-88.31)

OIL $43.96 US (-70¢)

GOLD $1,169.00 US (+$17.70)

Natural gas: $2.813 (-10.7¢)
Dow Jones: 17,959.03 (-117.16)

D&G boycott gains momentum

Protesters rally outside the Dolce & Gabbana store in London, Thursday. Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana denigrated surrogacy and same-sex parents in an interview with an Italian magazine last week, prompting Elton John to call for a boycott of the brand. Stars including Martina Navratilova and talk-show host Andy Cohen quickly hopped on board. TIM IRELAND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Food

Giant doughnut flies off shelves

A Southern California doughnut shop has come up with yet another guilty pleasure gone viral: a gigantic doughnut stuffed with a Pop Tart filling.

Donut Bar, with outlets in Fountain Valley and San Diego, calls the one-pound creation the Big Poppa Tart Donut. Donut Bar sells about 150 of the doughnuts daily, at $4 US each. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Retail

Target getting $1.6B tax break

Target Corp.'s swift exit from Canada will reap about $1.6 billion US in tax breaks for the retailer in the United States, according to documents filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The filings say Target made a "strategic shift" in its business when it chose to exit Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Have you, or someone you know who is an older adult, been a victim of abuse or neglect?

BC Centre for Elder Advocacy and Support, a non-profit organization with charitable status, works to raise awareness, and to prevent and respond to elder abuse and neglect. The Victim Services Program supports people age 50+ who are victims of family and sexual violence, including abuse.

Our staff lawyers and the legal advocate provide legal advice and representation, in areas of law related to elder abuse, to people age 55+ who are low income or have other barriers. We offer free workshops and training on elder abuse prevention and financial literacy for older adults and community groups.

Seniors Abuse and Information Line (SAIL) is a safe place for older adults, and those who care about them, to talk to someone about situations where they feel they are being abused or mistreated, or to receive information about elder abuse prevention.

Seniors Abuse & Information Line
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Available 8am to 8pm daily (except holidays)

Language interpretation available
9am to 4pm daily (except holidays)
TTY: 604-428-3359 | 1-855-306-1443 (toll free)
Available 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday (except holidays)

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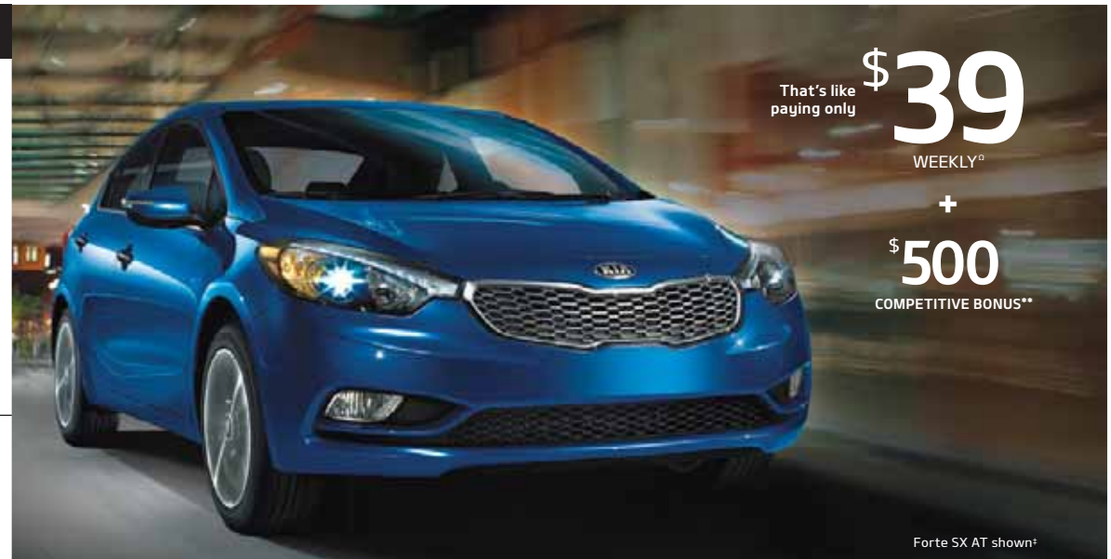

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$500 COMPETITIVE BONUS**

Forte SX AT shown‡

2015 FORTE LX MT

HWY / CITY 100KM^: 6.1L/8.8L

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Offer includes delivery, destination, fees, and a $800 lease credit*. Consumers can elect to take an additional 10,000 km allowance in lieu of the lease credit. Offer based on new 2015 Forte LX MT (FO541F) with a selling price of $17,502¤.

2015 RIO LX MT

That's like paying only $39 WEEKLY¤

Rio4 SX with Navigation shown‡

HWY / CITY 100KM^: 6.3L/8.8L

LEASE FROM $159¤ MONTHLY WITH $0 DOWN AT 0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS¤

Offer includes delivery, destination, fees, and a $800 lease credit*. Consumers can elect to take an additional 10,000 km allowance in lieu of the lease credit. Offer based on new 2015 Rio LX MT (RO541F) with a selling price of $15,602¤.

2015 SOUL 1.6L LX MT

That's like paying only $45 WEEKLY¤

Soul SX Luxury shown‡

HWY / CITY 100KM^: 7.8L/9.9L

LEASE FROM $177¤ MONTHLY WITH $0 DOWN AT 0.9% APR FOR 60 MONTHS¤

Offer includes delivery, destination and fees. Offer based on new Soul 1.6L LX MT (SO551F) with a selling price of $18,682¤.

2015 SORENTO CLEAROUT!

Sorento SX AT AWD 7-Seat shown‡
HWY / CITY 100KM^: 8.7L/11.8L

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VOICES

SILENCE DOESN'T LEAD TO CHANGE

THE KOHLER REPORT
By Rebecca Kohler

Would you like a biscotti with your coffee or would you prefer a conversation about a white cop shooting a black man in Ferguson? They'd certainly both give you something to chew on.

If you haven't heard, Starbucks has launched an awareness campaign called Race Together in which it's asking its baristas in U.S. stores to strike up conversations with customers about race relations. If you're wondering if Pumpkin Spice is considered a race, it's not.

The good news is that people of all races have united on social media in HATING this idea, so maybe that's a great start?

I don't like to be a fence-sitter, but I'm really torn on this one. Part of me likes it, the other part is ever so slightly throwing up in my mouth. Let's discuss.

The cynical, vomitus side of me sees this is a corporation possibly capitalizing on the idea of discrimination. "Hey! Maybe if we act like we care about this issue, people will buy more rustic egg-white breakfast sandwiches!... Oh no, is it racist to say egg-white? Change that to no-yolk."

This reminds me of Bell's Let's Talk campaign, which was Bell Canada's way of raising awareness about mental illness.

While I'm all for hearing about people's struggles with depression, etc. (I have my own), it turned my tum to see them hashtag their stories on Facebook with the phone company's name.

Should an admission of having felt suicidal double as an advertisement for an Internet service provider?

There's also just the fact that this idea seems impractical.

What happens if a discussion gets deep and the barista can't keep up with the orders? If Race Together were happening in Canada and I was in line, I wouldn't want to find myself resenting a well-meaning conversation about whether or not a niqab is appropriate attire for a Canadian citizenship ceremony.

And I'm usually in a rush when I go to Starbucks — I wouldn't want to look flippant should someone ask me about Canada's treatment of indigenous people: "Yeah, yeah, it's terrible. Gotta go!"

Then there's the part of me that thinks this is a great idea that should be commended and a lead that should be followed.

Let's talk ... but maybe not right now

I'm usually in a rush when I go to Starbucks — I wouldn't want to look flippant should someone ask me about Canada's treatment of indigenous people: "Yeah, yeah, it's terrible. Gotta go!"

No, it's not perfect, in that, as many have pointed out, the baristas aren't race relations experts and the Starbucks customer demographic is largely young and privileged.

But does that mean they just shouldn't talk? Is that ever a better solution? Maybe if they talk to each other they will learn things. There was a time I didn't know how to tie my shoes — should I have kept silent on the matter because I was an ignoramus?

No. Had I not conversed about laces with my parents, I'd be tripping all over myself to this day.

Like with Bell Let's Talk campaign — at least people were talking, right? The more this stuff gets talked about, the better. Discussions spark thoughts, questions and curiosities. Convos in Starbucks will bleed into workplace and home. Silence doesn't lead to change, conversations do.

This softer side of me also believes that the man behind this ideological plan, Starbucks chief executive Howard Schultz, is genuinely trying to do a good thing (while also selling scones).

Others aren't so convinced, wanting to know, for instance, if he's so "concerned" why only 16 per cent of Starbucks executives are people of colour?

Well, that's an interesting statistic.

Maybe that's the kind of thing you could discuss with a barista at Starbucks — a barista who might then discuss it with her manager who might mention the conversation at an annual Starbucks conference.

Maybe it'll get into Howard Schultz's ear and he'll take it to heart and make change? Or, yeah, I guess we could just not talk at all.

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From cooking in Walmart to getting kicked out of Ikea, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:

METH LAB BUST AT WALMART

Where's the health and safety committee when you need it? A Walmart washroom in Indiana was shut down after an employee discovered a mobile meth lab inside a backpack left there. Perhaps the weirdest part of this story is that this was not an isolated incident, with others cooking up a storm at various Walmarts over the years. Police say mobile labs are a growing trend with those who'd rather not risk the chance of explosions in their own homes, but we don't think this is what the Walmart people meant by Save Money, Live Better.

A CLASSIC TAIL

Dear heartbroken person whose beloved pet went missing: We hope you will find some measure of comfort in this story. Kevin the orange tabby went AWOL in South Carolina a few years back, but turned up in Palm Springs this week when a woman found him hitched to her U-Haul trailer. Once reunited with Kevin, his owner joked that he's seen more of the country than she has, but if Kevin has taught her — and us — anything, surely it's that there is always hope.

BUDDHA BAN

In a move that's about as far from enlightenment as you can get, three men in Myanmar will spend the next 2-1/2 years in prison for posting an image of Buddha wearing headphones on their Facebook page. After getting complaints, the trio apologized for their "ignorance," but that didn't stop the judge from convicting them of denigrating the religion. In a small, symbolic act of solidarity, we're republishing the offending image here.

BELLE ÉPOQUE

Model life: Now with more croissants. If France passes a proposed law, it'll join other countries like Spain, Italy and Israel in banning the use of extremely thin models in the fashion industry. The legislation would require agencies to get medical certificates from models to prove that they have a healthy BMI and models would have to get routine checkups.

CONSUMERS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN

Ikea always seemed like such a fun company with their ball rooms, delightfully—albeit suspiciously — cheap breakfasts and the über-funky spellings. But even cool corporations have their limits. The Swedish multinational drew its line in the sand with giant hide-and-seek parties in the Netherlands that drew thousands to Ikea stores. The furniture giant said that while it doesn't like being a spoilsport, safety comes first. We're not sure where the party is being moved to, but it's probably best they steer clear of Walmarts in Indiana for the time being.

metro

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Penning a list of Sean's great roles

Analysis. The Gunman star says he forgets films he's worked on within a week of wrapping. Here's a rundown to jog his memory

Sean Penn stars in The Gunman, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Sean Penn is back on the big screen this weekend in The Gunman, his first leading role in almost four years. It can't rightly be called a comeback because he never really went away. Supporting roles in The Secret Life of Walter Mitty and Gangster Squad have generated column inches, but in the last five years he has devoted more energy to raising money for earthquake relief in Haiti than being a movie star.

In the film, he plays Special Forces military contractor Jim Terrier. By day he protects foreign workers in the Democratic Republic of Congo, but he moonlights as a hired gunman for big corporations. His assassination of the Congolese Mining Minister forces him to flee the country and changes the course of his entire life.

It's what Penn jokingly calls "geriaction," an action movie starring a middle-aged actor. Other than that, don't expect to hear him speak a great deal about his new film. "Honestly within a week after I've finished shooting a film I've almost forgotten it," he said recently.

In February he was honoured with an honorary César Award for "choosing his films with sensitivity and commitment." At the ceremony, the "legend in his lifetime" watched a clip reel spanning the width and breadth of his career, including excerpts from Dead Men Walking, Mystic River and Milk.

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE

Later the actor said, "I remember playing none of those scenes. I remembered the movies (but) I saw myself in scenes with actors I didn't even know I'd ever worked with!"

To jog Mr. Penn's memory here's a list of some of his memorable roles:

1. In Milk, Penn won a best actor Oscar playing the real-life Harvey Milk, a native New Yorker who became America's first openly gay man to be elected to public office. Penn fully embraces Milk, from the thick New York accent that characterized his speech to the goofy grin that endeared the real-life activist to his supporters, both gay and straight.

2. This Must Be The Place is a rare thing. I speak of that elusive beast *Pennigma Seanun comoedia* — the Sean Penn comedy. He plays a retired and world-weary American rock star living with his wife (Frances McDormand) in Ireland. This is Sean Penn like we've never seen him before. With poufy hair, black toenail polish and affected vocal cadence — like Andy Warhol on Quaaludes — he creates an intriguing, strange character.

3. In Hollywood dramedy Hurly Burly, Penn played against type as Eddie, the hyperactive casting agent. It's an emotionally raw performance — witness Eddie try and use cocaine to snort away his troubles — but one without the studied glumness that he frequently brings to the screen.

4. Fair Game could be retitled One Hundred Minutes of Sean Penn Yelling 'If We Don't Tell the Truth No One Will!' He's Joseph Wilson, the real-life whistleblower who claimed the Bush administration falsified information about the existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Penn is passionate, crafting a performance so big it has its own gravitational pull.

5. Finally there's All The King's Men, a movie memorable for all the wrong reasons. Penn is a fine actor, but as Willie Stark, (loosely based on Louisiana governor Huey P. Long) he is so over the top it's as if he's acting in a different movie than the rest of the cast. It's a vein-popping, arm-waving performance that suggests that maybe he should lay off the Red Bull.

Richard's ratings

The Divergent Series: Insurgent

The Gunman

Tracers

YOUR DAILY BRITISH-ISM
Skive /skʌiv/
Avoid work or a duty by staying away or leaving early
The 7:30 work drinks were cancelled, now I won't need to skive off.
CORONATION ST.
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cbc.ca/coronation

Typecasting makes Sean Penn cranky

Movies. The actor of a certain age follows in the footsteps of Harrison Ford and Liam Neeson with Gunman — just don't tell him that

NED EHRBAR
Metro in NYC

Sean Penn stars in The Gunman. CONTRIBUTED

Sean Penn is just trying to promote his new film, The Gunman, but people keep bringing up the Oscars and that whole "green card" joke he made when Birdman won Best Picture.

"I'm always surprised by flagrant stupidity. I keep having more hope," he says.

"I have absolutely no apologies. In fact, I have a big f— you for anybody who is so stupid not to have gotten the irony when you've got a country that is so xenophobic. If they had their way, you wouldn't have great filmmakers like Alejandro (Gonzalez Inarritu) working in this country. Thank God we do."

As for critics who lambasted the actor for insensitivity on the immigration issue, he has some even more direct words: "I think they can be a bit more cheerful," Penn says with a shrug. "I think what's most offensive is we're attaching a protective sensibility to something which is meant to create self-censorship in people's interactions.

"I think that when somebody as special as Alejandro makes a film as special as Birdman was, that if he has a friend on stage, that maybe that friend wants to let him know that he won privately for a moment before the room knows and he did, cause there was a history there. So I wanted him to know it first, and that's who I was talking to, so I don't give a f— about all those other people."

But about The Gunman.

It's directed by Pierre Morel, who made Liam Neeson an action star with Taken.

And given that Penn is also a respected actor of a certain age, natural comparisons have been drawn — not that he agrees with the assessment.

"I thought Harrison Ford made a whole career on this stuff and I didn't think it was considered, like, a new trend or anything like that — what I call geriaction," Penn says.

"But there are aspects of this that have nothing to do with that, also. Admittedly there's a tremendous amount of action, one can't say it's not an action movie, but it's a different kind of movie also because it's not a 'wink at the audience' movie. This is more straight."

But action is action, and Penn, who got in impressive shape for the film — a shape he shows off by ditching his shirt whenever possible — didn't escape entirely without injuries.

"Little ones," he admits. "We got away without anything serious happening. There was an extraordinarily achy body at the end of the film, but that's accumulative."

Even if The Gunman enjoys Taken levels of success, he's not necessarily eyeing a franchise, and not just because of the aches and pains.

"I've never looked at a movie as beyond a movie, and in that case I wouldn't allow myself to think about that.

"I hope the best for this movie, we worked hard, a lot of people have worked hard and invested in this. I got projects I want to direct and that's what I want to focus on."

Of course, ask him immediately after he's finished filming, and he'd tell you he'll never make another movie again, sequel or no sequel.

"I think if I can remember what it feels like after it's done, that I would never do it again," Penn admits. "But it's a perishable awareness."

Quited

"There was an extraordinarily achy body at the end of the film, but that's accumulative."

Sean Penn
on the results of starring in the action film The Gunman

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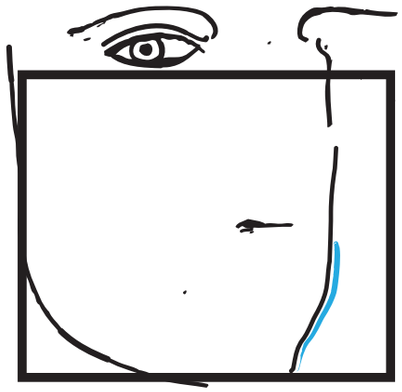

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Ratings: *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:*

Action/Adventure

The Gunman

Director. Pierre Morel

Stars. Sean Penn, Idris Elba

The Gunman, the new action thriller from Pierre Morel, the director of Taken, stars Sean Penn, Javier Bardem, Idris Elba, Ray Winstone and Mark Rylance.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 17% **Audience:** 90%

Adventure/Sci-Fi

The Divergent Series: Insurgent

Director. Robert Schwentke

Stars. Shailene Woodley, Theo James

In this thrilling and nail-biting entry in the Divergent series, Tris and Four seek refuge outside the city with the Amity faction. They convene with other Divergents and exiled survivors, and plot to fight back against the warmongering Dauntless and despot Jeanine Matthews.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet **Audience:** 75%

Documentary

Seymour: An Introduction

Director. Ethan Hawke

Stars. Seymour Bernstein

Seymour Bernstein started playing the piano as a little boy, and by the time he turned 15 he was teaching it to others. He enjoyed a long and illustrious career as a performer before he gave it up to devote himself to helping others develop their own gifts. Ethan Hawke's gentle, meditative study is a warm and lucid portrait of Bernstein.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 100% **Audience:** 81%

Mystery & Suspense

The Intruders

Director. Adam Massey

Stars. Donal Logue, Miranda Cosgrove

Every town has its secrets, as college student Rose Halshford (Miranda Cosgrove) learns when she and her dad (Donal Logue) move into a musty, old house. When Rose discovers that the previous tenant mysteriously disappeared, leaving her possessions behind, she suspects her unfriendly neighbours know more than they let on.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet **Audience:** 100%

Mystery/Suspense

Run All Night

Director. Jaume Collet-Serra

Stars. Liam Neeson, Natalie Martinez

Liam Neeson reunites with Unknown director Jaume Collet-Serra for this Warner Bros. thriller following a mob hit man and his estranged son (Joel Kinnaman) as they flee the wrath of a vengeful crime boss.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 59% **Audience:** 90%

Action & Adventure

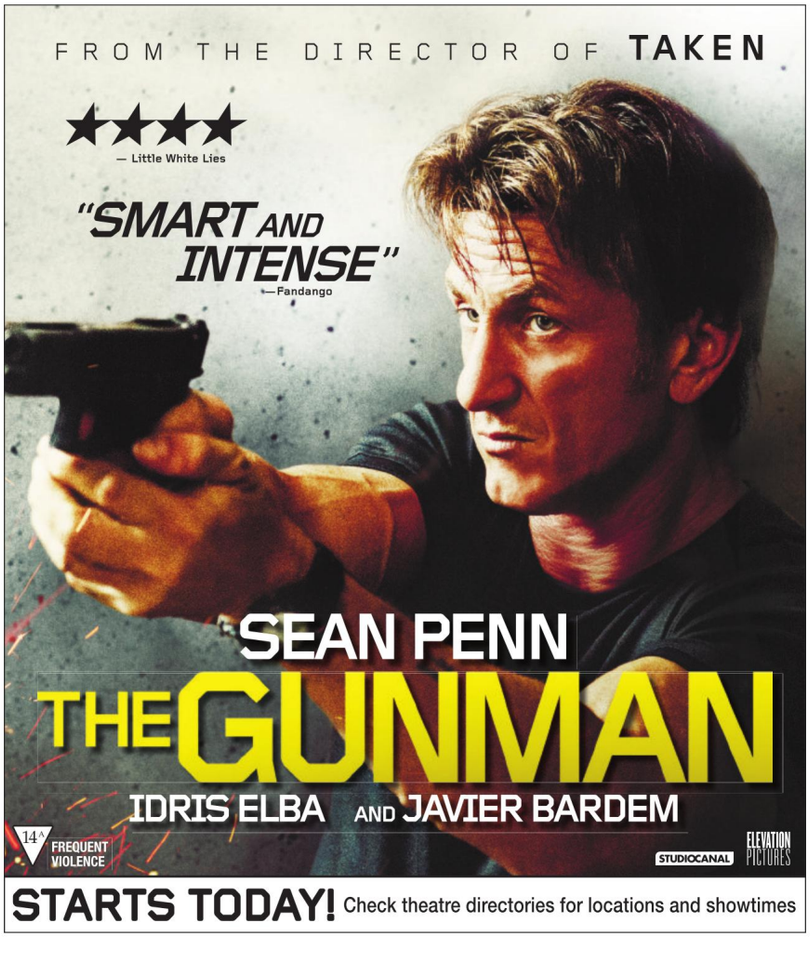
Chappie

Director. Neill Blomkamp

Stars. Hugh Jackman, Sharlto Copley

In the near future, crime is patrolled by an oppressive mechanized police force. But now, the people are fighting back. When one police droid, Chappie, is stolen and given new programming, he becomes the first robot with the ability to think and feel for himself.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 30% **Audience:** 94%



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The kids haven't changed, we have

The Breakfast Club.
After 30 years, breakout teen film's flaws exposed

CHRIS ALEXANDER
scene@metronews.ca

Make no mistake, for better or worse, late writer-director John Hughes was the titan of '80s teen angst, responsible for a slew of pictures that aimed to humorously examine the average American teenager while amassing much critical acclaim and box-office success in the process.

But Hughes' magnum opus is, without question 1985's The Breakfast Club, a talky tale in which five misfit teens endure a day of Saturday detention together and ultimately realize that they're not so different after all.

Sure, the film is often funny and the then-young cast is game, with Anthony Michael-Hall, Ally Sheedy and Judd Nelson standouts with their expert comic timing and dramatic chops.

But for all its good intentions and repute, the hard truth is that The Breakfast Club stands more today as an exercise in high camp than a realistic peek into high school life.

The fact that anyone once took it seriously at all is a potent indictment of just how shallow and naive the "me decade" truly was.

Here Metro takes a brief look at some of The Breakfast Club's least appetizing elements — a list sure to offend those who grew up with the film

Re-release showings

In honour of the film's 30th anniversary, Cineplex is bringing it back to theatres for two showings on March 21st and 25th.

Everyone's white

Hughes' previous film Sixteen Candles stands as one of the most racist teen films ever (Long Duck Dong, anyone?) so for The Breakfast Club, he decided to just paint the screen alabaster and call it a day. Everyone here is white. And clean. And well-fed, and witty. Including the faculty.

Sexual assault ain't funny

If Sixteen Candles had date rape played for laughs, the scene in which Nelson, hiding under Molly Ringwald's desk, eyeballing her crotch and biting down hard while she stifles her shock to save face, is equally wrong. Designed to be lewdly amusing, it's just kind of unpleasant, with Hughes suggesting that Ringwald is only mildly annoyed by the incident, in turn painting Nelson as nothing more than a brat, rather than the criminal he is.

Get over it, kids!

These whiny, self-obsessed kids may have a few hang-ups, but suffering to the point of sympathy? Hardly. From Hall's suicide attempt after getting a bad grade in shop class, to Sheedy's dandruff, none of it rings true. Even troubled, boorish bad boy Judd Nelson somehow makes it to detention on time. The fact that Nelson even shows up to detention at all, single-handedly revokes his cartoonish anti-establishment status.

Emilio's dance

Add up the most cringe-inducing moments seen on screen in the '80s and all of them combined wouldn't come close to equalling the operatic shame of seeing a stoned Estevez break into the most awesomely idiotic dance in film history. Said spastic herky-jerky is meant to signify Estevez's rebellion against his father's athletic expectations, or something. Whatever the hell it is, it's a jaw-dropper!

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White God opens March 27. CONTRIBUTED

Hungarian flick White God lets the dogs have their day

Film. Animal trainer Teresa Ann Miller talks training over 250 pups for White God

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

For animal trainer Teresa Ann Miller, the only thing more difficult than working with more than 250 dogs on the Budapest set of White God was working with all those dogs' trainers.

"That was tough, and especially for the amount that we had," said the L.A.-based canine expert about the Hungarian dramatic movie. "They knew my reputation in Europe because I had been there for 20 years on a very successful TV show but again, when you go there with your trainers, you never know how that relationship is going to go."

Lucky for Miller, the experience was exceptional and the acclaimed drama about a stray dog's quest to find its 13-year-old owner even won the acclaimed Un Certain Regard prize at the Cannes Film Festival.

While the premise may sound similar to heart-tugging family classics like Lassie Come Home, White God's journey is violent and features packs of canines in scenes involving dogfights and dangerous traffic.

"It's always going to be safe," insisted Miller of the turbulent traffic scene.

Although the lovable pup was protected with a safety band tied to his waist, Miller admits filming a dog dodging fast cars takes an entire crew.

"I teach him to step forward (and) step back and it's kind of a dance we do. Once he learns those cues, it's a matter of putting in those cars," said Miller. "He really was in no danger (but) he really looked trapped and isolated, trying to cross the street."

While the movie is winning praise as a metaphor for fomenting cultural strife in Europe, Miller is simply appreciating the added attention for her particularly passive style of training.

"A mistake that people make is they try to dominate the dog," advised Miller. "I don't yell at them. In fact, I accomplish more by not saying anything ... over-dominating a dog only creates a fearful dog that isn't going to participate in things, let alone work on a film without a leash."

Dogs will be dogs

"Most of the training I do is really focused on not just an animal being part of a film, but the animal being a character," said Miller. "I might capture them doing something a little more natural before I have them run out of the scene. That's just allowing a dog to be a dog."

Animal trainer Teresa Ann Miller. MAGNOLIA PICTURES

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Dustin Hoffman plays a choirmaster in Boychoir. CONTRIBUTED

Dustin Hoffman gets to play at his first love in music role

Movie. Wannabe-musician-turned-actor tickled to star as Boychoir's choirmaster

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

As an actor, two-time Academy Award winner Dustin Hoffman has created some indelible characters — Midnight Cowboy's Ratso Rizzo and Tootsie to name a couple — but from an early age he dreamed of being a professional pianist.

"I wanted to be a musician but I was never talented enough," he says, "so I'm not a musician. I have small hands — and by the way there is no correlation to your hands and personal parts — so I can't reach much more than an octave."

In the new film Boychoir he shows his musical side playing a choirmaster to a group of talented youngsters.

As a young man, he studied classical piano, but when it became apparent he'd never turn pro, he tried his hand at acting.

"I had been flunking out of junior college and somebody said, 'Try acting. Nobody flunks acting.'"

Enrolling at the Pasadena Playhouse, he shared a room with Robert Duvall and studied with Gene Hackman.

"No one told me I was a good actor," he says. "No one told Gene, and there was a third person, Duvall. They are both much, much older than me. If someone was to say to the three of us in those early days that we were going to be successful, forget about being movie stars, everyone would have laughed. It's kind of a freak accident that it happened to all three of us."

Hoffman's big break came in the form of Benjamin Braddock in The Graduate. Robert Redford was considered for the part, but director Mike Nichols rejected the traditionally handsome actor — "You can't play it," he told Redford. "You can never play a loser" — in favour of the unknown Hoffman. The Graduate made him a star and is now considered a classic, but almost 50 years later he remembers how the critics savaged his performance.

The barbs hurt at the time, but he doesn't let them get under his skin any more. "Critics are ... I shouldn't say," he laughs, "I don't know if anyone grows up saying, 'When I grow up, I want to be a critic.'"

Quoted

"I had been flunking out of junior college and somebody said, 'Try acting, Nobody flunks acting.'"

Dustin Hoffman

Mekhi Phifer plays Max in The Divergent Series: Insurgent, out this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Mekhi Phifer is just along for the ride

Insurgent. The actor says he picks his roles based on what's good, plain and simple

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Years before Mekhi Phifer played the stern-faced Dauntless enforcement officer Max in this weekend's The Divergent Series: Insurgent, he displayed a dauntless attitude that got him his first acting job.

The year was 1994, the movie was Spike Lee's Clockers and over 1,000 people showed up for an open casting call.

"I went with my cousin," he says, "not knowing anything about the audition or open casting call process. Spike Lee auditioned me about seven or eight different times. I had to read with Harvey Keitel and Isaiah Washington and do improvisations. I had never done that type of stuff before so to have gotten that was a whirlwind; I just thought that was the norm. That's how you cast movies — a thousand people come in."

He won the lead role and parlayed that into a string of memorable characters in movies like 8 Mile, and TV shows like ER, where he played Dr. Greg Pratt for six seasons and the Dr. Who spinoff, the sci-fi series Torchwood: Miracle Day.

"I am a big fan of sci-fi," he says. "And that was part of the allure (to signing on for the Divergent series), but the other part was that it was good. I'm not looking for one particular genre or one particular type of film. I usually just gravitate towards what's good."

He plays Max, leader of Dauntless, the warrior bloc of a Big Brother-style government that has divided the post-apocalyptic Chicago into five factions. In the new film, his job is to hunt down and capture fugitives Tris (Shailene Woodley) and boyfriend Four (Theo James) because she is divergent — a person who cannot be pigeonholed into just one designation.

"He's not a villain at all in any way, shape or form," he says. "He's tasked with protecting the society and I really feel that he believes in expunging the divergents and the rebel factions. He's not doing it in a malicious way. He's not getting pleasure from other people's pain. He looks at it as a necessary evil."

No spoilers for Phifer

Phifer hasn't read the Veronica Roth books that make up the source material for the films. "For me it seemed like more fun to do the series and then read the books and compare." So he's not sure what's going to happen with his character, but he hopes Max comes back for next year's instalment, Allegiant: Part 1.

- "I don't know what's happening next, so I'm on the journey with the audience," he says. "I would love to see some of who he is come full circle."

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A very Canadian way to welcome spring, eh

Appetizer. Celebrate the new season with this Sesame and Maple Appetizer Bread

RICARDO COOKS
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Ricardo Magazine

Want to take maple syrup in a savoury direction? Do it with this recipe that honours Canada's most beloved export.

Dough

1. In a bowl, combine the water and maple syrup. Set aside.

2. In bowl with a wooden spoon, combine flour, yeast and salt. Add the water mixture and combine into a soft ball. Knead the dough for about 3 minutes on a floured surface.

3. Place dough in clean and lightly oiled bowl. Coat dough with the oil. Cover bowl with damp cloth and leave in a warm and moist place for about 1 hour or until the dough has doubled in volume.

Topping

1. On a work surface sprinkled with sesame seeds, roll half of the dough at a time into an 8-inch (20 cm) disc, taking care to coat with sesame seeds. Sprinkle pepper on each side of the dough and press lightly to make it adhere.

2. In a non-stick skillet over medium heat, brown 1 bread at a time in half the oil for about 2 minutes on each side. Add 1 tbsp of maple syrup and caramelize one side of the bread. Flip the bread on a cutting board. Cut in half and then cut into 1/2-inch (1.5 cm) strips. Sprinkle with salt. Clean the pan before cooking the second bread. Serve with a glass of cider or beer. **FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED IN 2014.**

This recipe serves eight. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Ingredients

Dough
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) warm water
- 1/2 tsp (1 1/2 ml) maple syrup
- 1 1/4 cups (175 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp instant dry yeast
- 1 tsp salt

Topping
- 1/4 cup (35 g) toasted sesame seeds
- Freshly ground pepper, to taste
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) olive oil
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) maple syrup
- Fleur de sel

Liquid Assets

Spring in a bottle

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
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My calendar lies.

It says that today is the first day of spring. Out my window here in Nova Scotia, it's beginning to look a lot more like Christmas.

Even with snow on the ground, I'm embracing the change of seasons by diving into a glass of something white, ripe and fruity.

Though fruitier reds have hogged the spotlight of late, there's nothing like a bright, floral white when it comes to expressing the liquid personality of spring.

Argentina's Torrontés grape is a highly aromatic berry that smells so good you'd almost be tempted to dab a little behind each ear.

Sometimes all that perfume can be a bit much, so it's often blended with other grapes to soften the assault on your nasal passages.

While Fuzion's 2013 Alta Torrontés Pinot Grigio ($9.95 - $12.99) still smells great, the addition of a touch of fresh, citrusy Pinot Grigio brings out the fleshy pear and stone fruit of the Torrontés.

A good match with spicy Asian cuisine, grilled chicken and fresh shellfish.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Sweetening the soup pot

This Cream of Carrot and Turnip Soup with Maple Syrup may remind you of the Swedish or Norwegian dishes of mashed potatoes with carrots and rutabaga called rotmos and kålrabistappe, respectively.

1. In large pot, cook carrots, rutabaga and onions in butter 5 minutes, without browning.

2. Add the broth, potatoes and maple syrup. Bring to a boil. Cover and simmer for about 25 minutes or until the vegetables are tender.

3. In a blender, purée the soup until smooth. Add the cream. Season with salt and pepper. Serve hot. **RICARDO**

This recipe serves eight to 10 people. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Ingredients

- 4 cups (440 g) carrots, peeled and sliced
- 4 cups (600 g) rutabaga, peeled and cubed
- 2 onions, chopped
- 3 tbsp (42 g) butter
- 8 cups (2 litres) chicken broth
- 2 russet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) maple syrup
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) 35% cream
- Salt and pepper

Opportunity blown vs. Jackets

NHL. After taking lead, Canucks fizzle against Columbus, concede critical ground in race for playoff spot

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

On Thursday

Blue Jackets	Canucks
6	2

The Vancouver Canucks had a two-goal lead and things were looking good against the Columbus Blue Jackets, a team well down the order in the Eastern Conference standings.

The five-game home stand looked to be coming to an end in style, and Vancouver would improve its record and point total, as it fights for a playoff spot in the West.

But then the Canucks imploded.

That could be costly.

The visiting Blue Jackets, down 2-0 in the second period, scored three times in the middle frame, including a power play goal with under two minutes remaining, to take the lead and eventually a 6-2 victory over the host Canucks.

Meanwhile, on the out-of-town score board, the Calgary Flames dusted off the Philadelphia Flyers. So, they jump back on the heels of the Canucks, trailing them by only a point in the Pacific Division. The Canucks also could've put four points worth of distance between them and the L.A. Kings, losers in overtime on Wednesday, but failed.

The Canucks now face the Kings on Saturday. They're 0-3 versus the defending Stanley Cup champions this season, and been thoroughly outplayed in all three games.

The margin for error just decreased a little more Thursday.

The Canucks had 20 shots through the first period but couldn't sustain that push.

Goalie Eddie Lack, appearing in his 13th straight game for the Canucks, was good early. But the Blue Jackets were able to eventually beat him, and he was pulled midway through the third period.

Blue Jackets goalie Sergei Bobrovsky stops a shot from Canucks centre Nick Bonino during first-period action on Thursday night at Rogers Arena. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Russell Teibert, pictured, and Sam Adekugbe will miss the upcoming derby with Portland while away with Canada on national team duty. JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES

Soccer. Canada duty pulls Whitecaps duo from MLS

The Vancouver Whitecaps will be minus two Canadians when they host the Portland Timbers in a Cascadia Cup derby match at BC Place Stadium on March 28.

Both midfielder Russell Teibert and left back Sam Adekugbe were selected on Thursday to the 23-man Canadian men's national squad that will attend camp down in Florida, beginning Sunday when players arrive. Canada will play a pair of friendlies, against Guatemala and Puerto Rico. The final match is scheduled for March 30.

"Every day we are together is very important to us because it is the best way we have to practice our game situations," said Canada's coach Benito Floro in a statement.

"Speaking about this camp, this is very important because it is the last one before official games so we need to use it to practice several things."

That means both Teibert and Adekugbe will be unavailable for their Vancouver side against the Timbers, as the two rivals clash for the first time this regular season.

Adekugbe, 20, got the start at left back in place of veteran Jordan Harvey last weekend in Chicago.

The Whitecaps, with a 1-1 record through two weeks of the season, are back on the road this weekend.

They play the expansion Orlando City SC on Saturday. CAM TUCKER/METRO

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Putting Cancon in NCAA

There are 28 Canadians playing at the NCAA men's basketball championship. Here are four to watch:

THE CANADIAN PRESS

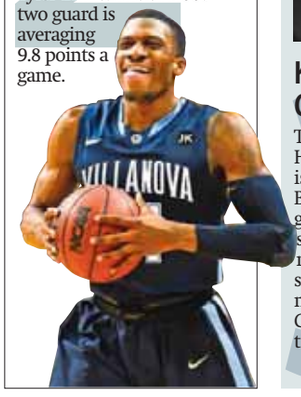
All photos Getty Images

Trey Lyles, Kentucky Wildcats

The 19-year-old was born in Saskatoon, to a Canadian mom and American dad, and has lived most of his life in Indianapolis. The 6-10 forward has started 16 of 31 games for the No. 1-seeded Wildcats, who are a perfect 34-0 this season. Lyles is averaging 8.4 points on 50 per cent shooting.

Dylan Ennis, Villanova Wildcats

The 23-year-old from Brampton, Ont., has started every game for No. 1 seed Villanova this season. Dylan is the older brother of Milwaukee Bucks point guard Tyler Ennis. The six-foot-two guard is averaging 9.8 points a game.



Kevin Pangos, Gonzaga Bulldogs

The 22-year-old from Holland Landing, Ont., is the No. 2-seeded Bulldogs' starting point guard. The 6-2 sharpshooter holds the school record for three-point shots made, and was named the West Coast Conference player of the year.

Daniel Mullings, New Mexico State

The 23-year-old from Toronto was last season's Western Athletic Conference player of the year. The 6-2 guard is averaging 12.6 points a game. He plays for a No. 15-seeded Aggies squad that is stacked with Canadians — Rashawn Browne, Tanveer Bhullar, Jalyn Pennie and Matt Taylor are all from Toronto.

Georges Niang, left, of No. 3 seed Iowa State reacts during his team's loss to UAB. That was before Georgia State's R.J. Hunter knocked off No. 3 Baylor with a game-winning three Thursday afternoon. GETTY IMAGES

March Madness. Brackets in tatters on opening day

Maybe if everyone's bracket is busted, no one's is?

It was barely after lunch on the West Coast when Georgia State finished the second big upset of the day — in just the first three games. Between the Panthers' upset of Baylor and UAB's takedown of Iowa State, two No. 3 seeds falling that quickly on the tournament's first big day left almost every bracket blemished.

ESPN says that three games into Thursday, more than 99 per cent of the brackets submitted on their website were damaged by the upsets. That leaves only about 87,000 out of 11.6 million still with a perfect bracket or 0.7 per cent.

Spokesman Josh Krulewitz tweeted that nearly one in six of ESPN's brackets — 16 per cent — had Iowa State in the Final Four, and 5.1 per cent had Baylor there.

Just 3.1 per cent of Yahoo Sports users picked UAB to win and 5.9 picked Georgia State. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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- 41 days
- 3,000 torchbearers
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About the torch

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Material: aluminum

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Playoffs looking unlikely for Vancouver Giants

The odds are greatly stacked against them, but the Vancouver Giants are still, just barely, alive in the Western Hockey League playoff race.

The Giants, with two games remaining on their schedule, are four points back of the Kamloops Blazers and Tri-City Americans — both of those clubs are at 61 points — for the final wild-card playoff spot in the Western Conference.

The Giants have minimal control over their own destiny, as the regular-season schedule concludes this weekend. The Giants will play the Kelowna Rockets, ranked No. 2 in the entire CHL, in a home-and-home two-game set that begins Friday at Pacific Coliseum and wraps up Saturday in Kelowna.

Vancouver needs to win both games.

Then the Giants would need the Blazers and Americans to lose all their combined five games this weekend — in regulation just to tie both clubs in points.

If that were to happen, and the Giants beat the Rockets twice in back-to-back games, Vancouver would then need to beat Tri-City in a sudden-death play-in game to get into the playoffs.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

Jets squeak past Blues in shootout

NHL. Captain Ladd puts final touches on win as Winnipeg holds tight to wild-card spot

Jets forward Blake Wheeler avoids a check from Blues defenceman Zbynek Michalek on Thursday in Winnipeg. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Andrew Ladd scored the decisive goal in the shootout to give the Winnipeg Jets a 2-1 win over the St. Louis Blues on Thursday.

Drew Stafford picked up the only goal in regulation time for the Jets (36-23-12) while David Backes scored the lone goal for the Blues.

Winnipeg's Ondrej Pavelec made 32 saves for his 16th win of the season as Brian Elliott stopped 33 shots for St. Louis (45-20-6).

The Jets temporarily move three points up on the Calgary Flames, who are also in action Thursday, for the second and final wild-card spot in the Western Conference.

Both sides played to a scoreless first, but the period wasn't without its chances.

Pavelec and his counterpart Elliott had to be on their toes as the pace picked up following just three combined shots after eight minutes of play.

Blues defenceman Carl Gunnarsson registered the best chance of the period when the former Toronto Maple Leaf found time and space as he trotted in from the blue-line, but was turned away by the Czech netminder.

The Blues got on the board first at 8:08 of the second period when Backes beat a sprawling Pavelec after taking a cross-ice pass from Paul Stastny.

Backes' goal was his 25th of the season, marking the fourth time that he has reached 25-goal mark in his nine-year career.

Jacob Trouba came close to tying the contest a few minutes later. Blake Wheeler found the sophomore defenceman in space, but Trouba's shot rang off the post.

Meanwhile, Pavelec continued his stellar play, making two acrobatic saves on a Blues power play late in the second to keep it a one-goal game.

Michael Frolik and Mark Stuart each hit the post in the third period for the Jets, but Stafford would finally solve Elliott with under 10 minutes to go after a nifty drop pass from Tyler Myers.

The goal was Stafford's 15th of the season and sixth since joining the Jets after being acquired from Buffalo prior to the NHL trade deadline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Matthew Wuest

Metro reporter, CapGeek founder dies of cancer

Matthew Wuest
METRO FILE

Matthew Wuest poured his heart into his work.

The former Metro Halifax sports reporter and CapGeek founder was always the one writing the stories, often shying away from having stories written about him.

Wuest died in the early morning hours Thursday at Victoria General Hospital in Halifax, wife Melanie Patten by his side, following a two-and-a-half year battle with colon cancer.

While he was never one to have the media spotlight shining his way, Wuest's story is one that deserves to be told.

"He was just a great guy who really loved what he did," Metro Halifax managing editor Philip Croucher said Thursday. "I've never seen anyone do it better."

Wuest was dedicated to doing the best possible job, yet was never satisfied with the end result.

The Stanley, N.B., native was always trying to better himself, whether covering local sports such as the Halifax Mooseheads, Halifax Rainmen and Atlantic University Sport for his full-time job with Metro, or developing the popular hockey resource CapGeek, an online NHL salary cap review.

"There were days I'd wonder how he would get stories and information. He was so connected to the sports world, both nationally and internationally," said Croucher.

Wuest was a humble soul, happy to collect the facts and conduct interviews, and as his recent quiet shutting down of CapGeek shows, apt to stay out of headlines himself.

"He didn't go for the attention that he could have gotten through that site," Croucher said of CapGeek.

"He was able to do that and still, without question, be the best sports reporter in Halifax — that speaks volumes to the talent that he was."

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO

FIFA. 2022 World Cup final on Qatari national holiday

The final of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar will be on Dec. 18, the country's national holiday.

FIFA confirmed on Thursday the date more than four years after it controversially chose the tiny Gulf emirate as host.

Qatar pledged to develop stadium cooling technology to overcome intense heat in the Gulf summer.

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Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
The Sun moves into your sign today and a new solar year begins. Just how good that year will be depends on the things you do over the next few days.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If someone blames you for something that was not your fault, let them know you are not happy about it, but don't go and make an enemy of them.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
According to the planets you need to ignore other people's advice and go back to basics. Start by asking yourself how and why you have arrived at your current position.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The Sun moves into the area of your chart that governs your social and professional status today. Over the next few weeks you will get many opportunities to better yourself.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Something you thought of as a problem won't be seen as such any more because you refuse to take it seriously. Your attitude will soften over the next day.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Over the past few weeks the emphasis has been on partnerships of an emotional nature but as of today it will shift to partnerships of a business or financial nature.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The Sun's change of signs today means you are halfway through your solar year: a good point to look back and take stock of how far you have come.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
With the Sun moving into the work and wellbeing area of your chart today you'll need to do more in some areas and less in others. Get the balance right.

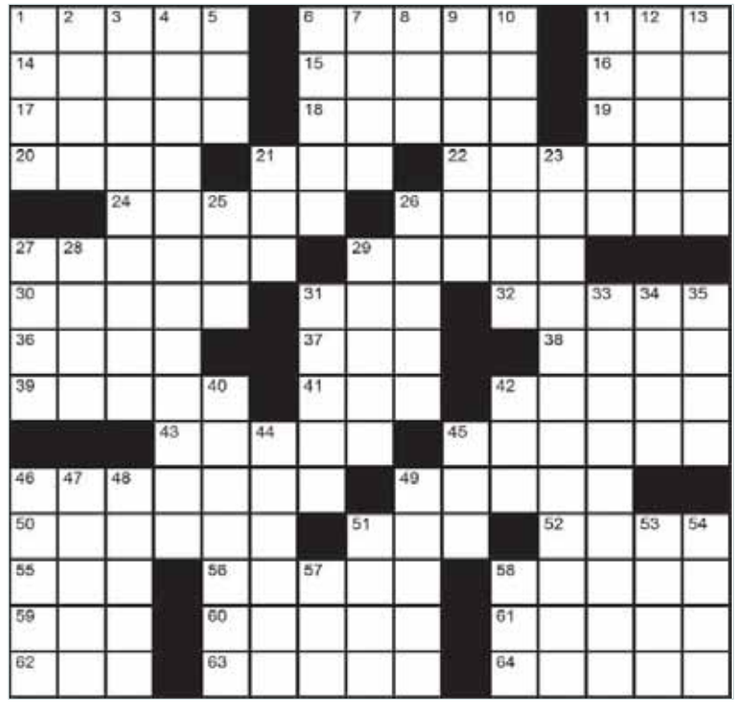
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Refuse to settle for second best. Your confidence will soar over the next few days and you will start to believe that anything is possible. One of the best times of the year is about to begin.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
There is no such thing as coincidence and if you feel yourself drawn towards a certain person it is because your fates are connected.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Now that the Sun is moving into one of the more sociable areas of your chart you won't have any problems getting across your point of view.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Get serious about your dreams. Look at the plans you have made in recent weeks and ask yourself if you are aiming too high or too low. Most likely it's the latter. Raise your sights and your game will follow.

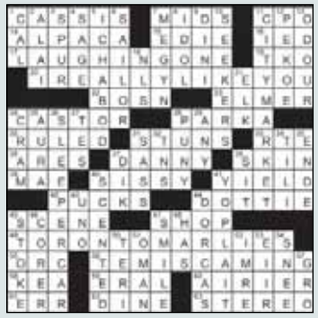
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Spot __ (BC shrimp)
6. Orange variety
11. Tea holder
14. Second-year students, briefly
15. Perry __ (Menswear label)
16. Completely
17. "__ __ by Sea" (1996)
18. Novelist Evelyn
19. Electronics co.
20. Shaker stuff
21. Zoologist's 'foot'
22. Protector-from-harm charm
24. Bubbled tool
26. Edmund Fitzgerald's load: 2 wds. (More at #4-Down)
27. Financial motive
29. _, _ __ _ (Multiple choice options)
30. Altercation: 2 wds.
31. "__ Maria"
32. "Frozen" (2013) Queen's
36. Cuckoos
37. Sea: French
38. "__ __ blame." (My bad!)
39. OKs
41. Cartoonist Mr. Spiegelman
42. Wings hit: letter + wd.
43. Creature
45. Typing: It's to a Q's left: 2 wds.
46. NFLD: Cape __. __ Ecological Reserve
49. Venture
50. Key in again
51. Bulg. neighbour
52. Justin Bieber's "That Should __ __"
55. 'Thrice'-meaning prefix
56. "__ Was a Lady" (1945)
58. Philadelphia athlete
59. __ _ crossroads
60. Mythical maiden
61. West Yorkshire city in England
62. Elle: English
63. Dallas' state denizen
64. Actor Mr. Davis

Down
1. Calif. clock settings
2. Seating near the stage: wd. + letter
3. Ms. Kotero of "Purple Rain" (1984)
4. "The searchers all say they'd have made __ __ if..." - Gordon Lightfoot
5. Banking acronym
6. "Foolish Games" singer
7. Unluckily
8. Bug
9. The Marriage of __, by Mozart, 1786
10. Canadian actor Shawn
11. Gambling destination, with Monte
12. Gastric trouble
13. Dish
21. Kibbles eater
23. Cirque of the __ (Northwest Territories mountaineering challenge)
25. Mr. Diesel
26. French composer Jacques
27. Talk to God
28. Germanic letter
29. Deflect
31. Stockpile
33. Brigitte Bardot makeup look: 2 wds.
34. Dip _ __ in (Test the lake's coldness)
35. __ Music Canada
40. __ Mounds (Approx. 2000-year-old burial site near Peterborough, Ontario)
42. Honking source
44. "__-__, Captain!"
45. Mr. Arnold
46. Miss: Spanish [abbr. plural]
47. Zipper bits
48. __. __ (Alberta peak named after Arctic explorer John)
49. Alpine dry wind
51. Kelly of daytime
53. __-spa
54. Celtic language
57. Rapper/actor known by these three letters
58. Andy Capp's wife

Yesterday's Crossword

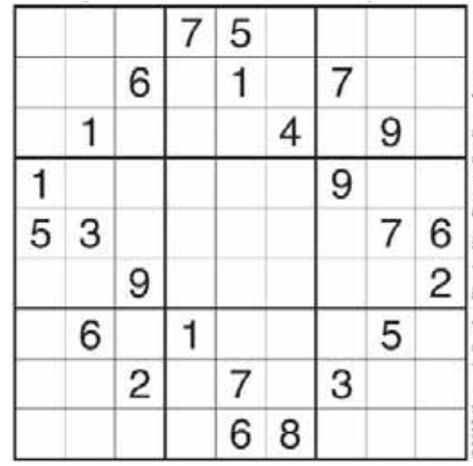


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

4	8	1	5	7	2	3	6	9
5	7	3	4	9	6	8	1	2
2	6	9	1	8	3	4	7	5
9	4	8	3	6	5	1	2	7
6	5	7	2	1	8	9	3	4
1	3	2	9	4	7	5	8	6
3	1	5	6	2	9	7	4	8
8	2	4	7	5	1	6	9	3
7	9	6	8	3	4	2	5	1

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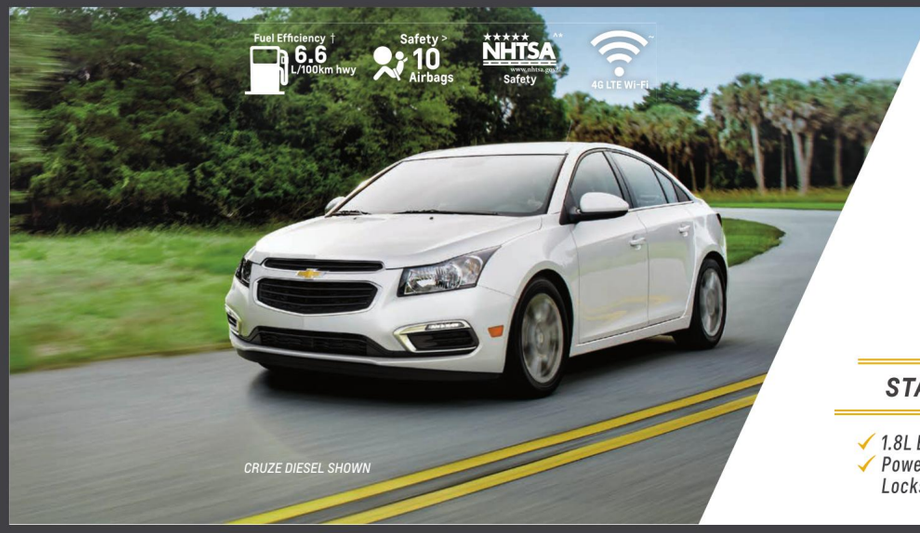

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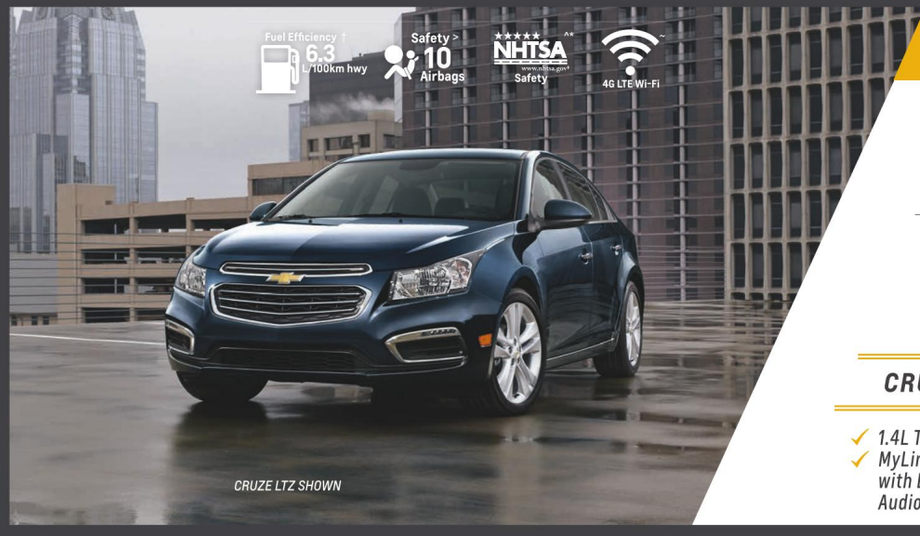

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